

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA
OFFICE OF PROCUREMENT MANAGEMENT
523 EAST CAPITOL AVENUE
PIERRE, SOUTH DAKOTA 57501-3182

INDEPENDENT LIVING SERVICES PROGRAM – COMMUNITY RESOURCE PEOPLE
PROPOSALS ARE DUE NO LATER THAN 03/11/2013 by 5:00 p.m. (CST)

RFP #: 2037

BUYER: DIVISION OF
CHILD PROTECTION
SERVICES

POC: MARK CLOSE
EMAIL:
Mark.Close@state.sd.us

READ CAREFULLY

FIRM NAME: _____ AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE: _____

ADDRESS: _____ TYPE OR PRINT NAME: _____

CITY/STATE: _____ TELEPHONE NO: _____

ZIP (9 DIGIT): _____ FAX NO: _____

FEDERAL TAX ID#: _____ E-MAIL: _____

PRIMARY CONTACT INFORMATION

CONTACT NAME: _____ TELEPHONE NO: _____

FAX NO: _____ E-MAIL: _____

1.0 GENERAL INFORMATION

1.1 PURPOSE OF REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

The purpose of this request for proposal is to select an Offeror to provide support services regarding development of independent living skills for youth age 15 through 18 in foster care so that the youth are able to live independently as adults. The services will be provided in the seven (7) Division of Child Protection Services' Regions that cover South Dakota's 66 counties. The contractor will also provide support to youth up to the age of 21 that have transitioned to adulthood from Child Protection Services care. The Offeror will stay in contact with these youth that are 19 and 21 to meet the requirements of the National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD). The Offeror will provide individual assistance to youth; work with youth to maintain and develop supportive relationships; provide information on health issues and health care to youth; educate youth on community resources; and assist youth in accomplishment of their education goals. The program is known as the Community Resource People Program. The contractor will also assist with the Personal Responsibility Education Program (PREP) that is working with Reducing the Risk curriculum and Botvil Life Skills curriculum. The PREP will be delivered in licensed facilities, group homes or independent living preparation programs in the state. With the Reducing the Risk curriculum, fidelity needs to be addressed on how this will be handled when using the curriculum in the state.

1.2 ISSUING OFFICE AND RFP REFERENCE NUMBER

The Department of Social Services is the issuing office for this document and all subsequent addenda relating to it, on behalf of the State of South Dakota, Division of Child Protection Services. The reference number for the transaction is RFP #2037. Refer to this number on all proposals, correspondence, and documentation relating to the RFP.

Please refer to the Department of Social Services website link <http://dss.sd.gov/rfp/index.asp> for the RFP, any related questions/answers, changes to schedule of activities, etc.

1.3 LETTER OF INTENT

All interested Offerors must submit a **Letter of Intent** to respond to this RFP.

The letter of intent must be received in the Department of Social Services by no later than 01/25/2013.

The Letter of Intent may be submitted to Mark Close via email at Mark.Close@stata.sd.us. Please place the following in the subject line of your email: "**Letter of Intent for RFP 2037**".

1.4 SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

RFP Publication	<u>01/14/2013</u>
Letter of Intent to Respond Due	<u>01/25/2013</u>
Deadline for Submission of Written Inquiries	<u>01/30/2013</u>
Responses to Offeror Questions	<u>02/08/2013</u>
Proposal Submission	<u>03/11/2013</u>
Proposal Revisions (if required)	<u>03/18/2013</u>
Anticipated Award Decision/Contract Negotiation	<u>04/12/2013</u>

1.5 SUBMITTING YOUR PROPOSAL

All proposals must be completed and received in the Department of Social Services by the date and time indicated in the Schedule of Activities.

Proposals received after the deadline will be late and ineligible for consideration.

An original and 7 (copies) identical copies of the proposal shall be submitted.

In addition, the Offeror should provide one (1) copy of their entire proposal, including all attachments, in PDF electronic format. Offerors may not send the electronically formatted copy of their proposal via email.

The cost proposal must be in a separate sealed envelope and labeled “Cost Proposal”.

All proposals must be signed in ink by an officer of the responder legally authorized to bind the responder to the proposal, and sealed in the form intended by the respondent. Proposals that are not properly signed may be rejected. The sealed envelope must be marked with the appropriate RFP Number and Title. The words “Sealed Proposal Enclosed” must be prominently denoted on the outside of the shipping container. **Proposals must be addressed and labeled as follows:**

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL #2037 PROPOSAL DUE 03/11/2013
SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
ATTENTION: MARK CLOSE
700 GOVERNORS DRIVE
PIERRE, SD 57501-2291

All capital letters and no punctuation are used in the address. The above address as displayed should be the only information in the address field.

No proposal may be accepted from, or any contract or purchase order awarded to any person, firm or corporation that is in arrears upon any obligations to the State of South Dakota, or that otherwise may be deemed irresponsible or unreliable by the State of South Dakota.

1.6 CERTIFICATION REGARDING DEBARMENT, SUSPENSION, INELIGIBILITY AND VOLUNTARY EXCLUSION – LOWER TIER COVERED TRANSACTIONS

By signing and submitting this proposal, the Offeror certifies that neither it nor its principals is presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation, by any Federal department or agency, from transactions involving the use of Federal funds. Where the Offeror is unable to certify to any of the statements in this certification, the bidder shall attach an explanation to their offer.

1.7 NON-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

The State of South Dakota requires that all contractors, vendors, and suppliers doing business with any State agency, department, or institution, provide a statement of non-discrimination. By signing and submitting their proposal, the Offeror certifies they do not discriminate in their employment practices with regard to race, color, creed, religion, age, sex, ancestry, national origin or disability.

1.8 MODIFICATION OR WITHDRAWAL OF PROPOSALS

Proposals may be modified or withdrawn by the Offeror prior to the established due date and time.

No oral, telephonic, telegraphic or facsimile responses or modifications to informal, formal bids, or Request for Proposals will be considered.

1.9 OFFEROR INQUIRIES

Offerors may email inquiries concerning this RFP to obtain clarification of requirements. No inquiries will be accepted after the date and time indicated in the Schedule of Activities. Email inquiries must be sent to Mark Close at Mark.Close@state.sd.us with the subject line "RFP #2037".

The Division of Child Protection Services will respond to Offeror's inquiries which will be posted on the DSS website at <http://dss.sd.gov/rfp/index.asp>. Offerors may not rely on any other statements, either of a written or oral nature, that alter any specification or other term or condition of this RFP. Offerors will be notified in the same manner as indicated above regarding any modifications to this RFP.

1.10 PROPRIETARY INFORMATION

The proposal of the successful Offeror(s) becomes public information. Proprietary information can be protected under limited circumstances such as client lists and non-public financial statements. Pricing and service elements are not considered proprietary. An entire proposal may not be marked as proprietary. Offerors must clearly identify in the Executive Summary and mark in the body of the proposal any specific proprietary information they are requesting to be protected. The Executive Summary must contain specific justification explaining why the information is to be protected. Proposals may be reviewed and evaluated by any person at the discretion of the State. All materials submitted become the property of the State of South Dakota and may be returned only at the State's option.

1.11 LENGTH OF CONTRACT

Estimated beginning date of the contract: 06/01/13

Estimated ending date of the contract: 05/31/14

An extension period for renewal could be for an additional 4 years

1.12 GOVERNING LAW

Venue for any and all legal action regarding or arising out of the transaction covered herein shall be solely in the State of South Dakota. The laws of South Dakota shall govern this transaction.

2.0 STANDARD AGREEMENT TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Any contract or agreement resulting from this RFP will include the State's standard terms and conditions as outlined in Attachment # 1 Grant Agreement. The Offeror will need to include in the proposal a match or in-kind of 5%.

3.0 SCOPE OF WORK

The Department of Social Services' vision is Strong Families – South Dakota's Foundation and Our Future. The Division of Child Protection Services' purpose is working together to bring safety, permanency, and well being to families to build a better tomorrow. As part of the Department of Social Services mission to strengthen and support families, Child Protection Services provides services to children that have been placed into foster care because they cannot remain safe in their own home.

South Dakota law requires that the Department of Social Services provide services to children age 16 or older that are in foster care to assure that they are able to live independently as adults. These services are referred to as

Independent Living Services. In addition, the Division of Child Protection Services provides Independent Living Services to youth that are expected to transition to adulthood from foster care (until the age of 21). In order to meet this responsibility, the Division of Child Protection Services developed a community-based program called the Community Resource People Program to provide support services to the youth. The role of the Community Resource People is to provide certain services that are part of the Independent Living Services program including: completing assessment of youth's independent living needs; promoting connections; assisting youth toward completion of their educational goals; facilitating independence through support and collaboration with other stakeholders; provide staff to coordinate and support the advocacy group Young Voices; assist youth in Child Protection Services care or youth that have left care with participating in the National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD) survey at the ages of 17, 19 and 21 year old.

Provide training and education to youth related to the Personal Responsibility Education Program (PREP) to reduce teen pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases (STDs). The evidence based curriculums, *Reducing the Risk* and *Botvin Life Skills* have been selected to be used in the South Dakota with the goals: 1) To provide participants with the knowledge and life skills needed to reduce risky behaviors in order to make healthy choices; and 2) To help participants identify qualities and attributes of healthy relationships.

There are seven regions composed of 21 Division of Child Protection Services' offices to cover the 66 counties in South Dakota. Proposals will need to include service provision for all 66 counties.

Region 1

Region 1 consists of 1 county which is Pennington

Approximate number of youth served annually:

42 to 64 youth 16 – 18 year old

15 to 20 youth over 18 years old – up to 21 years old

Region 2

Region 2 consists of 9 counties. Counties included in this are Harding, Butte, Meade, Lawrence, Custer, Fall River, Shannon, Jackson and Bennett counties.

Approximate number of youth served annually:

13 to 18 youth 16-18 years old

5 youth over 18 years – up to 21 years old

Region 3

Region 3 consists of 12 counties. Counties included in this are: Perkins, Corson, Campbell, Ziebach, Dewey, Walworth, Stanley, Potter, Sully, Hyde, Hughes, Haakon counties.

Approximate number of youth served annually:

22 to 31 youth 16 – 18 years old

5 youth over 18 years – up to 21 years old

Region 4

Region 4 consists of 8 counties. Counties included in this area are: Jones, Lyman, Buffalo, Mellette, Tripp, Brule, Gregory and Todd counties.

Approximate number of youth served annually:

32 to 40 youth 16 – 18 years old

5 youth over 18 years – up to 21 years old

Region 5

Region 5 consists of 22 counties. Counties included in this area are: McPherson, Brown, Marshall, Robert, Edmunds, Day, Grant, Faulk, Spink, Clark, Codington, Deuel, Hamlin, Hand, Beadle, Kingsbury, Brookings, Jerauld, Sanborn, Miner, Lake and Moody counties.

Approximate number of youth served annually:

24-35 youth 16-18 years old

6 youth over 18 years old

Region 6

Region 6 consists of 2 counties which are Minnehaha and Northern Lincoln counties

Approximate number of youth served annually

39 to 65 youth 16 – 18 years old

15 – 20 youth over 18 years up to 21 years old

Region 7

Region 7 consists of 13 counties. Counties included in this area are: Aurora, Davison, Hanson, McCook, Charles Mix, Douglas, Hutchinson, Turner, Southern Lincoln, Bon Homme, Yankton, Clay, and Union.

Approximate number of youth served annually:

15 to 25 youth 16 – 18 years old

5 to 10 youth over 18 years up to 21 years old

The Offeror will need to describe in the RFP proposal how these areas will be covered with the Community Resource People.

3.1 Services for youth in Department of Social Services' custody:

The Offeror will be expected to provide services to youth that are in foster care under the custody of the Department of Social Services. The needed services will be based on the Casey Family Life Skills Assessment and the Independent Living Services case plan that is developed with the youth.

Describe in the RFP proposal how the Offeror will:

- A. Assure services are available to the 66 counties in the state to youth in Child Protection Services, BIA, tribal child welfare and Department of Correction care.
- B. Identify a main location for each of the Community Resource People that will be providing services and their role with the program.
- C. Work with youth age 16 and older, the Division of Child Protection Services, and the youth's placement resource to complete the Casey Family Life Skills Assessment and implement the youth's case plan related to development of independent living.
- D. Coordinate and collaborate with the Division of Child Protection Services and other key stakeholders to ensure seamless Independent Living Services for youth leaving care and services for youth still in care.
- E. Provide individual assistance to youth and monitor, supervise and coordinate services for youth in key areas of independent living.
- F. Stay connected with youth that were in the custody of the Department of Social Services and that have transition to adulthood from foster care by keeping contact with them through social networking avenues and other means.
- G. Promote connection with family members and other significant people in the youth's life.
- H. Collaborate with youth who need adult support by establish a mentor with youth (Mentoring means that the youth has been matched with a trained adult for a one-to-one relationship for the purpose of providing guidance and support to the youth. Mentoring can be short-term, but it may also support the development of a long-term relationship.

3.2 Services to youth that have aged out of foster care:

The Offeror will be expected to be available to provide services to youth that were in foster care under the custody of any South Dakota state or tribal program and that aged out of foster care to help the youth to live independently with in a community.

Describe in the RFP proposal how the Offeror will:

- A. Act as a central point of contact and referral source for Independent Living Services for youth between the ages of 18 to 21 that have transitioned to adulthood from foster care with additional consideration for youth with special needs.

- B. Provide outreach to tribal child welfare programs regarding training and other independent living support services.
- C. Use the Community Resource People positions to provide outreach and guidance to youth that have transitioned to adulthood with the National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD) survey that needs to be completed with the youth at age 19 and 21 that were in foster care.

3.3 Training for youth in foster care:

The Offeror will be responsible for coordinating and conducting two one-day regionalized workshops in 4 areas of the state each year and responsible to assist the Division of Child Protection Services with the statewide conference for youth that is held every two years. The topics for the regional workshops and bi-annual conference will be determined by the Independent Living Services Advisory Workgroup and will focus in the areas of health; education; employment; housing; transportation; legal issues; money management and other relevant independent living topics.

Describe in the RFP proposal how the Offeror will:

- A. Plan and conduct twice yearly Independent Living Services regional workshops in four area of the state to include:
 - Training for youth on a variety of Independent Living Services topics.
 - Foster parent training on independent living topics relevant to providing care to youth. The location of the one day regionalized workshops must allow for a reasonable travel distance to and from the workshop for transporting of youth by their respective guardians. This will require consideration for multiple locations depending on the size of coverage area and described in the proposal.
- B. Provide outreach to youth under the care of other state and tribal child welfare programs regarding the regional workshops and bi-annual teen conference.
- C. Assist the Division of Child Protection Service with the development and conducting of the bi-annual teen conference.
- D. Describe how the Offeror will implement the PREP training in residential facilities, group homes and Independent Living programs in the state.
- E. Provide the process in which Personal Responsibility Education program with the *Botvin Life Skills* and *Reducing the Risk* curriculums will be presented to youth in the state.
- F. Ensure fidelity will be maintained with the *Reducing the Risk* curriculum when presented in the different areas in the state.
- G. Ensure fidelity is maintained when a change is needed with the curriculum.
- H. Collaborate with the Department of Social Service -Division of Child Protection Service and Department of Health regarding implementation of the PREP program.

3.4 Educational Support Services

Along with assurance that youth achieve a high school education, the Division of Child Protection Services assist youth in their efforts to obtain a post-secondary education. The Division of Child Protection Services receives funding from the federal government to provide financial assistance to youth that have aged out of foster care to attend post-secondary education programs.

Describe in the RFP proposal how the Offeror will:

- A. Work with the Division of Child Protection Services to support and assist youth in attaining a high school education.
- B. Assist youth who were in foster care with Child Protection Services, other state programs, and tribal child welfare programs in planning for and attending a post-secondary education program.

3.5 Staff Competency

The Offeror must provide assistance for the following program responsibility and expectations in the proposal and provide copies of policy and procedures materials upon request.

Describe in the RFP proposal how the Offeror will:

- A. Ensure that Community Resource People have a combination of education and experience that is in line with the type of services being provided and the work required under the contract. If Community Resource People do not meet these qualifications upon employment, the Offeror must describe a plan for ensuring that Community Resource People will meet training and educational requirements.
- B. Ensure Community Resource People are able to communicate effectively and work collaboratively with other stakeholders.
- C. Ensure Community Resource People have an understanding of child development and the dynamics of abuse and neglect.
- D. Ensure that the Community Resource People understand the law regarding reporting of abuse and neglect and ensure that all employees will report suspected case of child abuse and neglect.
- E. Provide training to the Community Resource People relevant to the services being provided.
- F. Ensure Community Resource People maintain confidentiality regarding Child Protection Services' case information, including data system information.
- G. Assure additional technology is available for Community Resource People to communicate both verbally in writing with the Division of Child Protection Services and youth that have transitioned to adulthood from foster care.

3.6 Reporting

The Division of Child Protection Services is required by the federal government to provide additional information and data regarding the program services. The Community Resource People will be required to record data information into the Child Protection Services Data system known as Family and Children Information System (FACIS). In addition, the Offeror will be required to collect data related to the PREP program including the pre and post test along with the number of youth that are served.

3.7 Reporting Procedures

The Offeror will provide Child Protection Services with two separate reports that provide expenditures detailed separately from the preceding month to cover both the Independent Living and the PREP programs. The monthly reports would detail dates and times of services with the Community Resource People. The reports would include expenditures for the preceding month related to the Community Resource People salaries and benefits, supervision, office utilization, supplies, telephone expense, travel expense etc. Payment will be made pursuant to the monthly submission of a report identifying the cost of services provided by the Offeror. The Offeror will need to include in the proposal a match or in-kind of 5%.

4.0 PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS AND COMPANY QUALIFICATIONS

- 4.1. In addition to the areas in Section 3, the RFP proposal must include the following information related to the Offeror:
 - 1. Organization overview including program background, services, and population served by the organization.
 - 2. Organization mission statement.
 - 3. Description of familiarity of the Offeror with the service area addressed in the proposal.
 - 4. Demonstrated work experience providing training and/or technical assistant to youth from age 15 -21 years.
 - 5. Demonstration through examples of the ability to work with community resources and other organizations.
 - 6. Description of the quality assurance process that will show the ability of the Offeror to measure program outcomes and maintain the fidelity of the evidence based curriculums used to implement the PREP training; including structure and frequency of reviews, which will be used to monitor the effectiveness of the Offeror's services
 - 7. Organization chart showing how staff responsibilities must be documented for each staff position.
 - 8. Job description for the following positions that are to be included in the RFP:
 - Community Resource People – the description of services
 - Supervisor position – provide direction to the Community Resource People.

- 4.2 The Offeror is cautioned that it is the Offeror's sole responsibility to submit information related to the evaluation categories and that the State of South Dakota is under no obligation to solicit such information if it is not included with the proposal. The Offeror's failure to submit such information may cause an adverse impact on the evaluation of the proposal.
- 4.3 **Offeror's Contacts:** Offerors and their agents (including subcontractors, employees, consultants, or anyone else acting on their behalf) must direct all of their questions or comments regarding the RFP, the evaluation, etc. to the buyer of record indicated on the first page of this RFP. Offerors and their agents may not contact any state employee other than the buyer of record regarding any of these matters during the solicitation and evaluation process. Inappropriate contacts are grounds for suspension and/or exclusion from specific procurements. Offerors and their agents who have questions regarding this matter should contact the buyer of record.
- 4.4 The Offeror **MUST** submit a copy of their most recent independently audited financial statements.
- 4.5 Provide the following information related to at least three previous and current service/contracts performed by the Offeror's organization which are similar to the requirements of this RFP. Provide this information for any service/contract that has been terminated, expired or not renewed in the past three years:
- Name, address and telephone number of client/contracting agency and a representative of that agency who may be contacted for verification of all information submitted;
 - Dates of the service/contract;
 - A brief, written description of the specific prior services performed and requirements thereof.
 - Describe any challenges addressed as part of the current or past services or contract?
 - Describe Offerors's flexible capacity to handle needs of the contract with the State?
 - Describe Offerors's processes and strategies to identify potential critical problems or task and how your organization has and would handled these situations.
- 4.6 If an Offeror's proposal is not accepted by the State, the proposal will not be reviewed/evaluated.

5 PROPOSAL RESPONSE FORMAT

- 5.2 An original and 7 (seven) copies shall be submitted.
- In addition, the Offeror should provide one (1) copy of their entire proposal, including all attachments, in PDF electronic format. Offerors may not send the electronically formatted copy of their proposal via email.
 - The proposal should be page numbered and should have an index and/or a table of contents referencing the appropriate page number.
- 5.3 All proposals must be organized and tabbed with labels for the following headings:
- RFP Form.** The State's Request for Proposal form completed and signed.
 - Executive Summary.** The one or two page executive summary is to briefly describe the Offeror's proposal. This summary should highlight the major features of the proposal. It must indicate any requirements that cannot be met by the Offeror. The reader should be able to determine the essence of the proposal by reading the executive summary. Proprietary information requests should be identified in this section.
 - Detailed Response.** This section should constitute the major portion of the proposal and must contain at least the following information:
 - A complete narrative of the Offeror's assessment of the work to be performed, the Offeror's ability and approach, and the resources necessary to fulfill the requirements.

This should demonstrate the Offeror's understanding of the desired overall performance expectations.

5.3.3.2 A specific point-by-point response, in the order listed, to each requirement in the RFP. The response should identify each requirement being addressed as enumerated in the RFP.

5.3.3.3 A clear description of any options or alternatives proposed.

5.3.4 **Cost Proposal.** Cost will be evaluated independently from the technical proposal. Offerors may submit multiple cost proposals. All costs related to the provision of the required services must be included in each cost proposal offered.

The cost proposal must be submitted in a separate sealed envelope labeled "Cost Proposal" as outlined in section 1.5 of this RFP.

See section 7.0 for more information related to the cost proposal.

6 PROPOSAL EVALUATION AND AWARD PROCESS

6.2 After determining that a proposal satisfies the mandatory requirements stated in the Request for Proposal, the evaluator(s) shall use subjective judgment in conducting a comparative assessment of the proposal by considering each of the following criteria:

- 6.2.1 Specialized expertise, capabilities, and technical competence as demonstrated by the proposed approach and methodology to meet the project requirements;
- 6.2.2 Resources available to perform the work, including any specialized services, within the specified time limits for the project;
- 6.2.3 Proposed project management techniques;
- 6.2.4 Record of past performance, including price and cost data from previous projects, quality of work, ability to meet schedules, cost control, and contract administration;
- 6.2.5 Ability and proven history in handling special project constraints, and
- 6.2.6 Availability to the project locale;
- 6.2.7 Familiarity with the project locale; and
- 6.2.8 Cost Proposal

6.3 Experience and reliability of the Offeror's organization are considered subjectively in the evaluation process. Therefore, the Offeror is advised to submit any information which documents successful and reliable experience in past performances, especially those performances related to the requirements of this RFP.

6.4 The qualifications of the personnel proposed by the Offeror to perform the requirements of this RFP, whether from the Offeror's organization or from a proposed subcontractor, will be subjectively evaluated. Therefore, the Offeror should submit detailed information related to the experience and qualifications, including education and training, of proposed personnel.

6.5 The State reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, waive technicalities, and make award(s) as deemed to be in the best interest of the State of South Dakota.

6.6 Award: The requesting agency and the highest ranked Offeror shall mutually discuss and refine the scope of services for the project and shall negotiate terms, including compensation and performance schedule.

6.6.1 If the agency and the highest ranked Offeror are unable for any reason to negotiate a contract at a compensation level that is reasonable and fair to the agency, the agency shall, either orally or in writing, terminate negotiations with the contractor. The agency may then negotiate with the next highest ranked contractor.

6.6.2 The negotiation process may continue through successive Offerors, according to agency ranking, until an agreement is reached or the agency terminates the contracting process.

7 COST PROPOSAL

The Offeror should submit their proposal for allocation of various expenses associated with providing services to the State within the scope of their proposal. This proposal should include all cost associated with employee salaries and benefits, for direct and indirect care staff, insurance vehicle costs, facility rent/lease/maintenance cost, office supply costs, utilities, professional fees and contract services and any other expenses that are deemed necessary to perform the services outlined in this proposal. The Offeror will need to include in the proposal a match or in-kind of 5%.

The submitted cost report used to establish rates shall remain in effect throughout the contract period. The reimbursement rate may be adjusted by any inflationary increases provided by the Legislature.

The PREP funding of the RFP proposal will depend upon the continued availability of the grant funds at the federal level and with the Department of Health. If for any reason the appropriated funds or grant expenditure authority becomes unavailable to the Division of Child Protection discontinuation of funding will not be a default by the State nor does it give rise to a claim against the State.